

REMARKS

Claims 1-13 remain in the application. Reconsideration of the application and allowance of all claims are respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

The 35 USC 112 rejection stated in paragraph 3 of the Office action is believed overcome by the amendment made to claim 8. Claim 8 is directed to the operation illustrated in Fig. 6 where the source of a call can be identified by the resource used to send the call. Claim 8 has been amended for clarity by referring to "using" different resources to avoid confusion with "having all resources allocated to it."

The prior art rejections are respectfully traversed.

In all rejections, Patterson is relied on either for anticipation or as the primary reference in an obviousness rejection. As explained in the previous response, Patterson does not teach

As discussed in earlier responses, the present invention is directed to a technique for simplifying the connections needed to handle multiple antennas each covering a respective area. The simplification is realized by grouping antennas/areas together and, from a resource allocation standpoint, treating each group of areas the same way a conventional system would treat an individual area. (See, e.g., lines 14-15 of page 4.)

In all rejections, the examiner relies on Patterson to teach grouping of areas, but to do this he has to consider each cell phone to be its own "area." Applicant submits that even with this strained interpretation of the claim language, the limitations of the claims are neither anticipated nor obvious. But in any event claim 1 has been amended to recite that each area corresponds to a

respective antenna onboard the satellite. Patterson does not teach or suggest a system wherein each onboard satellite has a respective "area" and wherein these areas meet all of the remaining requirements of claim 1. Thus, claim 1 and all dependent claims are patentable over the art of record.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

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CUSTOMER NUMBER

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/DJCushing/
David J. Cushing
Registration No. 28,703